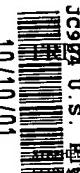


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Dorothy DeFrancesco
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Attorney Docket No. 00447CD/HG

j1036 U.S.P.T.O.
09/09/01
10/10/01

This is a request for filing a

Continuation

Divisional

application under 37 CFR 1.53(b), of pending prior application Serial Number 09/598,605, filed on June 21, 2000.

Inventors	Residence (City & Country)
Masahiro KAWAKAMI	Fukuyama, Japan
Terutoshi SAWADA	Yokohama, Japan
Takeshi SEKIGUCHI	Yokohama, Japan
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Junichi FUKUMI	Tokyo, Japan

entitled: REFINING METHOD OF MOLTEN IRON AND SMELTING REDUCTION METHOD FOR PRODUCING MOLTEN IRON

1. Enclosed is a copy of the prior application including a copy of the Oath or Declaration.
2. A Preliminary Amendment is enclosed.

ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION FOR PUBLICATION:

NKK CORPORATION
Tokyo, Japan

3. FEE: The filing fee is calculated below:

Claims as filed, less any claims cancelled by amendment herewith:

	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate	Calculations
Total Claims	8 -20	=	x \$18.00 =	\$ _____
Independent Claims	1 - 3	=	x \$84.00 =	\$ _____
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS			+ \$280.00 =	\$ _____
			BASIC FEE	\$ 740.00
			Total of above Calculations	\$ <u>740.00</u>

4. To the extent not tendered by check, authorization is given to charge any fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 during pendency of the application, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1378. Duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.
5. A check in the amount of \$ 740.00 is enclosed.
6. Cancel claim 1 to 23 and 28 to 37, without prejudice.

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7. [] Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence: This is a [] continuation, [] division of application Serial Number _____ filed _____.
8. [X] New formal drawings are enclosed. 24 Sheets, Figs. 1 to 26.
9. [X] The prior application is assigned to NKK CORPORATION, recorded on October 24, 2000 at Reel 011214, Frame 0706.
10. [] Copies of Verified Statement(s) claiming Small Entity Status filed in said application Serial No. _____. Small entity status is still proper and desired.
11. [X] Incorporation by Reference: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 1a or 1b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

12 [X] The Power of Attorney in the prior application includes the following:

LEONARD HOLTZ, Reg. No. 22,974 **HERBERT H. GOODMAN**, Reg. No. 17,081
THOMAS LANGER, Reg. No. 27,264 **MARSHALL J. CHICK**, Reg. No. 26,853
RICHARD S. BARTH, Reg. No. 28,180 **DOUGLAS HOLTZ**, Reg. No. 33,902
ROBERT P. MICHAL, Reg. No. 35,614

13a. [X] The power appears in the original papers of the prior application.

13b. [] Since the power does not appear in the original papers, a copy of the power in the prior application is enclosed.

14. [X] Address all future communications to:

FRISHAUF, HOLTZ, GOODMAN, LANGER & CHICK, P.C.
767 Third Avenue - 25th Floor Tel. No. (212) 319-4900
New York, New York 10017-2023 Fax. No. (212) 319-5101

15. [X] Priority claim is made based upon

35 USC 119: Japanese Patent Appln. 09-368429, filed December 26, 1997
Japanese Patent Appln. 09-368430, filed December 26, 1997
Japanese Patent Appln. 09-368431, filed December 26, 1997
Japanese Patent Appln. 10-019997, filed January 30, 1998
Japanese Patent Appln. 10-119714, filed April 28, 1998
Japanese Patent Appln. 10-119715, filed April 28, 1998

**35 USC 120: International Appln. PCT/JP98/05852, filed December 24, 1998
U.S. Serial No. 09/598,605, filed June 21, 2000**

Certified copies of the Japanese priority documents were filed on September 11, 2000 in application Serial No. 09/598,605.

16. [X] Information Disclosure Statement **[X] PTO/SB/08A** **[X] PTO/SB/08B**

FRISHAUF, HOLTZ, GOODMAN, LANGER & CHICK, P.C.

Ronald S. Bahr

**RSB/ddf
Enclosures**

By: Richard S. Barth, Reg. No. 28,180